

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOUREN 00689 251349Z

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 3627

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AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 689

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (DIGGS, CHARLES)

SUBJECT: TEXT OF DIGGS' LETTER TO SAG PRIME MINISTER

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 688

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER DATED JUNE 22, 1975, TO PRIMIN
VORSTER WHICH CONGRESSMAN DIGGS HAS GIVEN TO CONGRESSWOMAN
COLLINS TO TAKE TO SOUTH AFRICA (SEE REFTEL):

QUOTE I HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT AGAIN DECLINES
TO ISSUE ME A VISA IN CONNECTION WITH MY TRANSITS THROUGH
JAN SMUTS AIRPORT JUNE 23-24 AND 26. PARA SEVERAL TIMES
PREVIOUSLY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT (SAG) HAS TAKEN SUCH
UNWARRANTED ACTION. PARA I AM FURTHER ADVISED THAT THE VISA
PROHIBITION INCLUDES TWO OTHER MEMBERS OF MY PARTY, A U.S.
CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER AND A MEMBER OF THE STAFF OF
THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
NEITHER OF WHOM HAVE EVER VISITED YOUR COUNTRY OR MADE ANY PUBLIC
EXPRESSIONS RELATING THERETO. PARA AS IN THE PAST YOUR GOVERNMENT'S
STATED REASONS FOR THE AFOREMENTIONED BANNING IS THAT I ABUSED
VISITOR PRIVILEGES WHEN ALLOWED INTO THE COUNTRY ON TWO OCCASIONS
BY REFUSING TO MEET WITH SAG OFFICIALS AND HOLDING AN "UNAUTHORIZED
PRESS CONFERENCE". IT
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PAGE 02 LOUREN 00689 251349Z

WAS FURTHER STATED THAT THE TWO OTHER MEMBERS OF MY DELEGATION

SIMILARLY BANNED "COULD NOT BE GIVEN THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT IN VIEW OF THE SAG EXPERIENCE" WITH ME. PARA ALTHOUGH THESE PROHIBITIONS MAY BE WITHIN THE PREROGATIVES OF ANY SOVEREIGN STATE, THEY ARE NORMALLY ONLY EXERCISED UNDER MOST UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES, SUCH AS INVOLVING THE SECURITY OF THE STATE. THIS COMMUNICATIONS, THEREFORE, IS DESIGNED TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT, SINCE THE OFFICIAL BASIS OF SAID BANNINGS IS COMPLETELY SPURIOUS. PARA THE SINGLE INSTANCE IN WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT GRANTED ME A VISA WAS FOR MULTI-ENTRY, ONE YEAR, WITHOUT ANY STATED RESTRICTIONS. IT WAS WELL UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS INCLUDED NAMIBIA OR "SOUTHWEST AFRICA". HOWEVER, UPON ARRIVAL AT JAN SMUTS AIRPORT, AMBASSADOR HURD INFORMED ME THAT THE SAG PROHIBITED THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION (CODEL) FROM ANY TRAVEL IN THAT AREA. SINCE THIS WAS A VIOLATION OF THE CONDITIONS OF MY VISA I PREPARED TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY AND INSTRUCTED AMBASSADOR HURD TO NOTIFY THE SAG AND CANCEL ANY OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS. PARA UNFORTUNATELY, I DISCOVERED, THERE WAS NO FLIGHT SCHEDULED OUT FOR SEVERAL HOURS. I THEN DECIDED TO GO TO THE U.S. EMBASSY IN PRETORIA FOR BRIEFINGS. IT WAS THERE THAT THE DECISION WAS MADE FOR ME TO VISIT SOWETO, SINCE THERE WAS PLENTY OF TIME BEFORE MY SCHEDULED DEPARTURE. PARA MY VISIT TO SOWETO WAS QUITE AN EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE, AND THE WARMTH OF MY RECEPTION WAS SO OVERWHELMING, I WAS INSPIRED TO CONTINUE MY SOJOURN BUT ON THE BASIS OF A VISIT TO THE PEOPLE WITHOUT ANY OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT CONTACTS. PARA THE NEXT TEN DAYS WERE HISTORICAL. THE CODEL TRAVELED 5,000 MILES WITHIN THE COUNTRY, VISITING JOHANNESBURG, DURBAN, CAPE TOWN, A TRIAL IN PIETER-MARITZBURG, THE GENERAL MOTORS PLANT IN PORT ELIZABETH, THE SUGAR ESTATES, THE GHANDI MEMORIAL COMPOUND, THE ONLY PRIVATE FEMALE AFRICAN SECONDARY SCHOOL, AND SEVERAL UNIVERSITIES, INCLUDING STELLENBOSCH. I MET GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON AN UNOFFICIAL BASIS, JOURNALISTS, STUDENTS, POLITICAL AND ETHNIC LEADERS OF ALL TYPES, BUSINESS PERSONS (AMERICAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN), CLERGY, MISSIONARIES, WHITES, NON-WHITES. I WAS FRONT-PAGE NEWS NATIONALLY FOR THE ENTIRE PERIOD, PART OF WHICH COINCIDED WITH THE STATE VISIT OF PRESIDENT BANDA. FRIENDLY CROWDS OF BLACKS LITERALLY MOBBED ME EVERYWHERE, AND THERE WAS NOT A SINGLE INCIDENT. PARA AS TO THE PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH I HELD AT THE HOLIDAY INN NEAR JAN SMUTS ON MY NEXT TRANSIT STOP THE FOLLOWING YEAR WHICH HAS BEEN REFERRED TO AS WZUN-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LOUREN 00689 251349Z

AUTHORIZED", THE RECORD WILL SHOW THAT THE SAG HAD ADVANCE NOTICE THROUGH SEVERAL SOURCES AND IF IT HAD WISHED TO PREVENT ITS OCCURRENCE HAD THE TIME AND THE AUTHORITY TO DO SO. A TRANSCRIPT OF THAT CONFERENCE, A COPY OF WHICH I ASSUME YOU HAVE AND, IF NOT, IS AVAILABLE THROUGH OUR EMBASSY IN PRETORIA, WOULD NOT REVEAL ANYTHING SUBSTANTIVE THAT I HAVE NOT ADDRESSED IN NUMEROUS OTHER FORUMS. PARA WHERE THEREFORE IS EVIDENCE OF ANY "ABUSE OR DISCOURTESY" ON MY PART? IF THE

SAG WANTS TO DENY ME OR ANY MEMBER OF MY PARTY ENTRY INTO THE COUNTRY, AT LEAST IT WHOULD REVEAL THE REAL REASONS BEHIND SUCH ACTION. PARA MR. PRIME MINISTER, I HAVE MANY FRIENDS-- AND SUPPORTERS--IN YOUR COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH I WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THERE BECAUSE OF MY CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO EXPAND AND DEVELOP NORMAL CONTACTS AS I DO IN EVERY OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRY EXCEPT RHODESIA (WHICH DENIES ME ENTRY ALSO), I PARTICULARLY RESENT THE SAG ATTITUDE FOR AN ADDITIONAL REASON. SOME 12,000 SOUTH AFRICANS OBTAIN VISAS TO THE UNITED STATES ANNUALLY. IN THAT NUMBER ARE ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS. NO QUESTIONS ARE ASKED BY OUR AUTHORITIES ABOUT THEIR POLITICAL VIEWS NOR ARE THEY SUBJECTED TO ANY OTHER CRITERIA NOT ACCEPTABLE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND CUSTOM. UPON ARRIVAL IN THE U.S. SOUTH AFRICANS GO AND COME AS THEY PLEASE AND ARE SUBJECT TO NO RESTRICTIONS NOT APPLICABLE TO ANY OTHER VISITOR, OR FOR THAT MATTER ANY PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZEN. PARA MR. PRIME MINISTER, YOUR GOVERNMENT IS SPENDING SUBSTANTIAL TIME AND RESOURCES TO DEFEND AND CLARIFY ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD. THERE HAS EVEN BEEN A MODEST MODIFICATION OF PAST POLICIES AS EVIDENCE OF AN ACKNOWLEDGED NEED FOR CHANGE IN THE STATUS OF YOUR NON-WHITES. HOWEVER, WHEN ONE LOOKS AT WHAT AMERICANS CALL "THE BOTTOM LINE", FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES ARE STILL NOT TAKING PLACE. RESTRICTIONS STILL PRVAIL ON THE NON-WHITE MOBILITY, EMPLOYMENT, WAGES AND RELATED BENEFITS, WORKING CONDITIONS, PROPERTY RIGHTS, CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, EDUCATION AND, ABOVE ALL, VOTING RIGHTS. ADD TO THIS THE BANNING OF PEOPLE LIKE ME AND YOUR CREDIBILITY CONTINUES TO BE SERIOUSLY DAMAGED IN THE EYESIGHT OF ANY OBJECTIVE OBSERVER. END OF QUOTE.

WALKER

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